

REMARKS-general response to Office action

In the Specification

The attached substitute specification contains no new matter. The matter added to the Specification is based on the original disclosure and the single Figure included with the specification that was accorded a filing date of June 24, 2002. In this way, all additional description in the Summary, Detailed Description, and Abstract sections is supported by the original disclosure. The Background section has been amended to generally refer to the state of the prior art and only includes matter that has already been published. Thus, the requirement under 37 CFR 1.125 (b)(1) has been met.

Each sentence of the description, summary, and claims can be read and considered an expression of what was originally disclosed in the original drawing figure and written disclosure. Therefore, no new matter has been entered.

Furthermore, the Specification has been placed in proper order for facilitating review and publication by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

An appendix has been included to show details that were incorporated by reference by the inventor in the original disclosure. These details consist of the disclosure document No. 496447 filed with the US Patent Office on July 6th, 2001. The disclosure document No. 496447 includes one sheet of text and a photograph and one sheet of illustrations including the photograph, a perspective view, and a sectional side view similar to the original drawing figure filed in the present application. Each of these illustrations of the present invention includes details that are not shown in the drawing figure physically presented in the application. For example, the sectional side view shows an extra element supporting the stack of bags on the air flow guide. The photograph shows a cup holder and a cup for holding twist ties, or the like, for closing the bags once a product has been placed in the bag.

The perspective view gives a more complete idea of the box like structure of the automatic grocery bag opener including the structure of the sidewall and the box like airflow outlet guide.

In response to a comment by Examiner Rada in the interview of June 12, 2003, it should be noted that the original filing included a single sheet of written material that included a transmittal section, a description of the invention, and a signature. While this single sheet of written material appears to be a cover letter, it also includes all of the written disclosure that the Applicant physically submitted at the time of the original filing on February 11th, 2002. This written disclosure incorporated a Disclosure Document by reference. Examiner Rada raised the question as to whether the incorporation by reference were proper since it appeared to be referenced in a transmittal letter and not in the actual application. Subsequent to the original filing and in response to Office objections regarding the incomplete nature of the application, the Applicant submitted the additional sections of at least one claim and an abstract for the application, and the application was accorded a filing date of June 24th, 2002. Thus, it is apparent that the Office accepted the single sheet of written disclosure as being a sufficient disclosure for the purpose of completing the application. Therefore, Applicant argues that even though the single sheet appears to be a transmittal sheet or at least includes a transmittal portion, the single sheet also includes the Applicant's disclosure, and incorporation by reference on this single sheet should also be acceptable.

The Applicant filed a Disclosure Document on July 6th, 2001, which was recorded and assigned a Document Disclosure No. 496477. The Applicant supposed that filing the Disclosure Document was an important step in obtaining patent protection. This is evident from the first and only page of text of his Disclosure Document in which he states: “[t]his protection is for a device which is used to automatically open ...” and “[t]his protection should not be limited to the design of the unit shown in the enclosed drawing.”

Furthermore, the Applicant fully intended to include the details of the Disclosure Document 496447 in the present application. Applicant incorporates the Disclosure Document 496447 by reference in the present patent application by the phrase: "Refer to Disclosure Document No. 496447" immediately after a description of several of the details of the automatic grocery bag opener. (See the single sheet of text filed February 11th, 2002 discussed above.) Hence, the details of Disclosure Document 496447 have been properly included in the present application. However, the Disclosure Document will only be retained for two years from the date of submission. Therefore, the details must be physically included in the present application before July 6th, 2003 in order to ensure their preservation as part of the present application. To this end, the Disclosure Document 496447 has been included as an appendix.

It is hoped that the details of the Disclosure Document 496447 will provide additional support for the claimed invention, and will facilitate the allowance of the present application. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned in case conversion of the illustrations in the Disclosure Document into drawing figures is needed. On the other hand, it appears that the claimed details are adequately supported by the single original drawing figure.

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 2 recites that the "motion sensor [is] mounted on an exterior of the enclosure and [is] operably connected to the blower unit to automatically turn on the blower unit when motion of a user is sensed by the motion sensor when the user approaches the bag opener and dispenser." The Examiner has failed to provide references showing a motion sensor in combination with a grocery bag opener of any sort. Rather, the Examiner relies upon the practice of taking "Official Notice" of including a combination of a motion sensor ...which

will turn on or off the blower". At the outset, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide an actual reference showing a motion sensor and providing motivation for combining with a bag opener.

The Examiner further states that "[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have provided Montalvo's invention including a combination of a motion sensor ... in order to sense the presence of a person near the bag station and send a signal ... which will turn the blower on or off. This is not a proper motivation to combine a motion sensor with a bag opener. Furthermore, there is no teaching as to why one might want the bag opener to automatically turn on or turn off. Therefore, the combination of a motion sensor with a bag opener is not properly made. In fact, there are several reasons for not making the combination.

Firstly, using the art relied upon by way of example, the device of Montalvo (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,714, hereinafter "Montalvo") is a bag opener with a primary goal of increasing "reliability of an automated packaging system" as set forth in the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention of Montalvo. Montalvo's automated system actually teaches away from a motion sensor because a motion sensor combined with Montalvo would turn the system on and off at inopportune times for Montalvo's manufacturing style packaging system. That is, a motion sensor combined with Montalvo would reduce the reliability of the system and would cause loss of production time. Furthermore, the system of Montalvo is typically used by a skilled operator that needs to have full control over when the system is turned on and off. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine a motion sensor with Montalvo.

Secondly, neither the secondary reference to Osborne (U.S. Patent No. 4,085,822, hereinafter "Osborne") nor any other reference of record provides the deficiencies of Montalvo. Osborne is relied upon to provide the bag holder. However, even with a bag

holder, there is no teaching or motivation regarding a motion sensor or any reason to combine the bag opening system of Montalvo with a motion sensor.

Thirdly, the other bag opening devices cited by the Examiner are generally for use by employees or other personnel that want to continuously load products into bags until a particular packaging job has been completed. None of the devices in the cited references teaches or suggests automatically turning the devices on and off. In fact, there is no apparent need set forth in the prior art for these bag opening devices to be turned on and off automatically. In fact, having the bag opening devices automatically turned on and off will reduce the reliability of such devices since the devices will turn off if the operator leaves the bag station momentarily, for example. Thus, it would not have been obvious in light of the cited references to provide a motion sensor on a bag opening device. Therefore, allowance of claim 2 is earnestly requested.

The present invention is the first to teach the advantage of automatically turning on a bag opener by a motion sensor. This is particularly advantageous when the bag opener is to be used intermittently, such as by a customer. When customers are the operators, it is best to avoid liability problems with having the customers plug in an electrical device or even operate a button that may malfunction and electrocute the customer. Furthermore, if the customer has to figure out how to turn the device on, then the likelihood of the customer operating the device improperly or without the blower being turned on is high. The present automatic opener also greatly facilitates accessing an inside of a bag. While employees that regularly open bags as part of their job have practice and do not typically have trouble opening bags, customers often have a great deal of difficulty and frustration opening the same bags. Therefore, an automated bag opener is very advantageous, and is particularly advantageous for customers. The combination of a motion sensor is particularly advantageous for applications in which the bag opener should not be run constantly, such as to avoid annoyance and undue use of energy. Applicant holds that the only teaching to

combine a bag opener with a motion sensor, and the only teaching that provides these advantages, is the Applicant's own disclosure. Therefore, the combination relied upon absent a proper reference and motivation to combine is considered by the Applicant to improperly rely upon hindsight. Therefore, the Applicant request allowance of claim 2.

Claim 3 includes, among other things, "an upper and a lower bag hanger supported on an upper and a lower portion of a front face of the enclosure respectively". These features are shown in the single drawing figure and are supported in the detailed description of Applicant's disclosure. On the other hand, these features are not shown or disclosed in the references cited or relied upon. These features have the advantage of enabling a user to select which bag hangers he or she wants to use. Specifically, these features enable a user to select between handle bags to be supported on the upper bag hangers, or non-handle bags to be supported on the lower bag hanger. Thus, the versatility of the bag opener is enhanced. All the prior art bag dispensers/openers appear to be configured for one particular type of bag each. Thus, the new recitation set forth in claim 3 defines over the prior art.

Claim 3 further includes recitation of "an air flow guide mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing air at a front bag opening, wherein the air flow guide has a second guide wall fixedly supported at an acute angle on the front face and extending away from the airflow outlet and toward a plane of the first guide wall". In the interview of June 12th, 2003, Examiner Rinaldi raised the question as to whether the clip element 92 shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Panasewicz (U.S. Patent No. 3,678,652, hereinafter "Panasewicz" cited and made of record by the Examiner) provided a "second guide wall" as set forth in a proposed claim. However, current claim 3 now recites that the "second guide wall" is "fixedly supported ... on the front face". Therefore, claim 3 is additionally considered to define over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Therefore, allowance of Claim 3 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 3 further has additionally claimed matter reciting structural relationships between several elements including “an airflow outlet guide on the front face in superposed relation to the first opening, the airflow outlet having a first guide wall substantially parallel to the front face, the outlet guide being mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing air at a bag opening”, and “an air flow guide mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing air at a front bag opening, wherein the air flow guide has a second guide wall fixedly supported at an acute angle on the front face and extending away from the airflow outlet and toward a plane of the first guide wall”. These structural details are not merely a matter of design choice. Rather, the relationships recited provide unique advantages that are not provided by the devices of the cited prior art. For example, the structure providing the first guide wall parallel to the front face and the outlet guide in superposed relation to the first opening provides an exceedingly simple device to manufacture. This advantage is not provided, for example, by Panasewicz since Panasewicz has several angles surrounding the outlet opening, an odd shaped enclosure, and a first guide wall that is not parallel to any of the surfaces of the front face of Panasewicz. Another advantage of the device of the present invention is that the second guide wall provided by the lower bag hanger directs the flow of air directly and transversely at openings of a stack of bags to better open the bags. Panasewicz’s device, on the other hand, directs the air to pass over substantially parallel to the bag openings as can be noted from Figure 2. This is, in part related to the manner of hanging the bags 16 of Panasewicz by a non-fixedly supported second guide wall 92. Hence, the structural relationships between the above recited elements are not merely matters of design choice. Since Applicant’s invention has such advantages that are directly tied to claimed structure, reliance on design choice is improper. A design choice rejection of these structural features is improper because these provide distinct advantages over the prior art. Thus, these features are not functional equivalents to analogous features in the prior art. That is, these features function to provide distinct advantages over the prior art and are, therefore, not functional equivalents. Therefore, claim 3 is considered to be allowable.

Claims 2 and 3 are considered to be patentable for the reasons set forth above and for additional details therein as may be appreciated by the Examiner. Therefore, it is earnestly solicited that the Examiner allow claims 2 and 3 and forward the present application to issue. Notification of allowance is earnestly solicited.

REMARKS-specific answers to the Office action

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to as not being prepared in the proper form and to include the sections and subsections that facilitate examination and publication of the application. Applicant has, at the suggestion of the Office, employed a registered patent agent to place the Specification in proper order and to seek patent coverage to the maximum extent possible. In doing so, Applicant's representative has relied upon the disclosure as originally disclosed. Hence, no new matter has been entered.

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to as not being in a proper format. Applicant has now provided the abstract in proper form. The abstract includes similar matter to that of the detailed description, but in more general terms. Hence, no new matter has been entered by the new abstract of the substitute specification.

The specification was further objected to under 37 CFR 1.71 as not providing a description "in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art ... to make and use the same". However, the specification has been replaced by a substitute specification that replaces many confusing phrases and long sentences with simple straight forward descriptions. Most of the elements of the invention do not require further description since they are known in the art. In order to avoid entry of new matter that is not supported by the original disclosure,

further detailed description has been avoided where possible. On the other hand, more illustrations have been included as an appendix to preserve that which was incorporated by reference. Since these illustrations include a photograph and a perspective view, the limited disclosure that is maintained in the substitute specification is now considered to be adequate to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. The matter that has been added, (as indicated by underlining in the marked up version of the substitute specification in Attachment A), is considered to be fully supported by the original disclosure as set forth above.

As such, Applicant has corrected the errors that were a basis of the objections to the Specification. Therefore, it is earnestly requested that the objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional language. In accordance with this rejection, Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2 and 3 have been added with special care to tie function to structure and to provide proper antecedent for all terms. As such, claims 2 and 3 are now believed to conform with Section 112. Therefore, Applicant holds that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Furthermore, the suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based upon the Applicant's disclosure. A failure to meet any one of these criteria is a failure to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2143.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montalvo (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,714, hereinafter "Montalvo"), in light of Osborn (U.S. Patent No. 4,085,822, hereinafter "Osborn"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration of the claims.

While claim 1 has been canceled, the aspect of the rejection under 35 USC 103 that relies upon "Official Notice" could be improperly applied to other references in a similar broad brush approach.

As set forth above in the arguments in support of the non-obviousness of claim 2, there is no motivation to combine a motion sensor with a bag opener. Just because motion sensors are known in combination with other devices is not reason enough to combine a motion sensor with a bag opener. Rather, as set forth in the criteria for a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references themselves or common knowledge needs to teach the combination and offer a motivation for such a combination. Furthermore, each of the claimed elements needs to be provided in the prior art. Still further, there must be a reasonable assurance of success in the combination. As set forth above, a reasonable assurance of success is not provided since the references teach away from the combination. In fact, the combination of a motion sensor with the bag opener of Montalvo destroys the reference to Montalvo in that it make the device of Montalvo less reliable when reliability was a major goal of Montalvo.

In summary, and in view of the amendments herein, none of the references cited by the Examiner nor any other known prior art, either alone or in combination, disclose the unique combination of features disclosed in applicant's claims presently on file. For this reason, allowance of all of applicant's claims is respectfully solicited.

Regarding Doctrine of Equivalents

Applicant hereby declares that any amendments herein that are not specifically made for the purpose of patentability are made for other purposes, such as clarification, and that no such changes shall be construed as limiting the scope of the claims or the application of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

CONCLUSION

This response is being filed in a timely manner. Therefore, no fee is due.

The amendments herein add 2 new independent claims and cancel 1 independent claim, resulting in no additional fees due.

If any fees, including extension of time fees or additional claims fees, are due as a result of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0513. This authorization is intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 19, 2003

By



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Attachment A

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

Invention:
AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER

Inventor:
Joe Dale Reed
~~2371 HWY 8 EAST~~
~~HOUSTON, MS 38851~~

~~Enclosed: Written description—Page 1 (two copies each)~~
~~Equipment drawing—Page 2 (two copies each)~~
~~One (1) \$380.00 filing fee~~

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AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

5 This invention generally relates to a plastic bag dispensers, and in particular to produce or grocery bag dispensers that facilitate opening of a bag to be filled with groceries.

2. State of the Art

10 Devices of the past include bag holders and dispensers that are combined with other support structures such as checkout stands or other cabinet structures. Some devices of the past are complex and have, for example, extensive automation for filling bags with products and for moving the bags once filled. Other bag dispensing devices are simple and require user manipulation for operation and/or adjustment.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

15 This protection is for The present invention relates to a device which is used to automatically open plastic and polyethylene bags with forced air in produce departments and at checkout counters of grocery stores. The device also automatically turns on and off depending on a detected presence of a user. Hence, the present invention has automation in which other simpler devices of the past are deficient. That is, the present invention automatically turns on and off and automatically opens the first bag in a stack of grocery bags to be dispensed. Furthermore, the present invention overcomes the deficiencies of the past by providing a standalone device that is not necessarily combined with other structures, such as cabinets or other supports.

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The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following more detailed description of the particular embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 FIG. 1 is a partial sectional side view according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

As discussed above, embodiments of the present invention relate to an automatic bag opener and dispenser.

10 As shown in FIG. 1, bags are held in position from several different types of hangers on a front of an enclosure (D). The outside bag is forced and held open by the forced airstream from the air supply. The bag can then be filled with the items. Once the bag is filled, it is removed from the hanger. The next bag is automatically blown and held open. By switching on, the feed through cord switch (A) starts the shaded pole blower (B) to force the air flow (C) out of the bagger ~~encloser~~ enclosure (D) to open plastic or polyethylene bags located on the lower bag holder (E) on an upper portion of the front of the bagger ~~encloser~~ enclosure (D). Additionally or alternatively, the front can have another upper bag holder or hanger supported on an upper portion of the front as shown in Figure 1. As long as the motion sensor (F) sees movement, the shaded pole blower (B) stays on. and if If no movement is seen, by the Motion Sensor the motion sensor (F) sends an electric signal to a time delay relay (G) plugged into a relay socket (H) turning off the shaded pole blower (B). and In turn, if the motion sensor (F) sees motion of a person walking up to or near the motion sensor (F), the time delay relay (G) sends an electric signal to the shaded pole blower (B) turning the Bagger back on and making the

15 bagger an automatic bagging system.

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Additional details are incorporated herein by reference to Disclosure Document No. 496447. This document has been included for convenience in an appendix.

5 The embodiments and examples set forth herein were presented in order to best explain the present invention and its practical application and to thereby enable those of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. However, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing description and examples have been presented for the purposes of illustration and example only. The description as set forth is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the teachings above without departing 10 from the spirit and scope of the forthcoming claims.

CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Canceled)

By switching on the feed through cord switch (A) starts the shaded pole blower (B) to force the air flow (C) out of the bagger encloser (D) to open plastic or polyethylene bags located on the lower bag holder (B) on front of the bagger encloser (D), as long as the motion sensor (F) sees movement the shaded pole blower (B) stays on and if no movement is seen by motion sensor (F) sends a electric signal to a time delay relay (G) plugged into a relay socket (H) turning off the shaded pole blower (B) and in turn if the motion sensor (F) sees motion a person walking up to or near the motion sensor (F) the time delay relay (G) sends a electric signal to the shaded pole blower (B) turning the bagger back on making the bagger a automatic bagging system:

Having thus described my invention, What I Claim as New is- The combination of motion sensor (F) thru time delay relay (G) turning on shaded pole blower (B) and motion sensor (F) thru time delay relay (G) turning off shaded pole blower (B) and in turn if the motion sensor (F) sees motion a person walking up to or near the motion sensor (F) the time delay relay (G) sends a electric signal to the shaded pole blower (B) turning the bagger back on making the bagger a automatic bagging system:

1 2. (New) An automatic bag opener and dispenser, comprising:
2 an enclosure having a front face, a top, a bottom, sides, and a back surrounding an
3 interior of the enclosure;
4 at least one of an upper and a lower bag hanger supported on one of an upper or a
5 lower portion of a front face of the enclosure;
6 a first opening in the front face for passage of blowing air out of the enclosure;
7 at least one second opening in the enclosure for passage of air drawn into the
8 enclosure;
9 a blower unit supported on the interior of the enclosure and configured to draw air
10 from the at least one second opening and to force air from the first opening on the front
11 face;
12 an airflow outlet guide on the front face in superposed relation to the first
13 opening, the airflow outlet having a first guide wall substantially parallel to the front face
14 mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing air at a bag opening; and
15 a motion sensor mounted on an exterior of the enclosure and operably connected
16 to the blower unit to automatically turn on the blower unit when motion of a user is
17 sensed by the motion sensor when the user approaches the bag opener and dispenser.

1 3. (New) An automatic bag opener and dispenser, comprising:
2 an enclosure having a front face, a top, a bottom, sides, and a back surrounding an
3 interior of the enclosure;
4 an upper and a lower bag hanger supported on an upper and a lower portion of a
5 front face of the enclosure respectively;
6 a first opening in the front face for passage of blowing air out of the enclosure;
7 at least one second opening in the enclosure for passage of air drawn into the
8 enclosure;
9 a blower unit supported on the interior of the enclosure and configured to draw air
10 from the at least one second opening and to force air from the first opening on the front
11 face; and
12 an airflow outlet guide on the front face in superposed relation to the first
13 opening, the airflow outlet having a first guide wall substantially parallel to the front face,
14 the outlet guide being mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing air
15 at a bag opening; and
16 an air flow guide mounted on the front face and configured to direct the blowing
17 air at a front bag opening, wherein the air flow guide has a second guide wall fixedly
18 supported at an acute angle on the front face and extending away from the airflow outlet
19 and toward a plane of the first guide wall.

* * * *

AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER

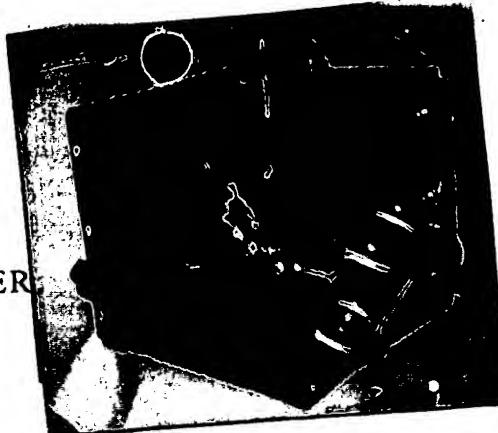
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automatic grocery bag opener automatically opens plastic and polyethylene bags with forced air in produce departments and at checkout counters of grocery stores. Bags are held in position from any of several different types of hangers on the front of the enclosure. The outside bag is forced and held open by the forced airstream from the air supply. The bag can then be filled with the grocery items. Once the bag is filled, it is removed from the hangers and the next bag is automatically blown and held open. As long as the motion sensor sees movement, the blower stays on. If no movement is seen by the motion sensor, the motion sensor ends an electric signal, thus turning off the blower. In turn, if the motion sensor sees a motion, an electric signal is sent to the blower and turns the bagger back on.

Be it known that I, Dale Reed a citizen of the United States, residing at Houston, in the county of Chickasaw and state of Mississippi, have invented a device which is used to automatically open Plastic and Polyethylene Bags with forced air in Produce Departments and at checkout counters of Grocery Stores, I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification. Bags are held in position from several different types of hangers on the front of the enclosure, the outside bag is forced and held open by the forced airstream from the air supply, the bag can then filled with the items, once the bag is filled, it is removed from the hangers, the next bag is automatically blown and held open. By switching on the feed through cord switch (A) starts the shaded pole blower (B) to force the air flow (C) out of the bagger enclosure (D) to open plastic or polyethylene bags located on the lower bag holder (B) on front of the bagger enclosure (D), as long as the motion sensor (F) sees movement the shaded pole blower (B) stays on and if no movement is seen by motion sensor (F) sends a electric signal to a time delay relay (G) plugged into a relay socket (H)

turning off the shaded pole blower (B) and in turn if the motion sensor (F) sees motion a person walking up to or near the motion sensor (F) the time delay relay (G) sends a electric signal to the shaded pole blower (B) turning the bagger back on making the bagger a automatic bagging system.

F:\sow\Clients\REED-0908\OAR\REED-0908 Marked Up Substitute Specification.wpd



Invention: AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER

Inventor: Mr. Dale Reed
2371 Highway 8 East
Houston, MS 38851

Enclosed: Written description - Page 1 (two copies each)
Equipment drawing - Page 2 (two copies each)
One (1) \$ 10.00 money order for filing fee

This literature is being sent to the Patent Office requesting that it be accepted and preserved for the purpose of evidence, described by the Patent Office as a DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

This protection is for a device which is used to automatically open grocery bags with forced air at the checkout counters of grocery stores. This protection should not be limited to the design of unit shown in the enclosed drawing. It is intended to cover the design of any system using forced air from any source, in any configuration, which blows and holds open any type of grocery bag.

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JUL 01 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 143700

DESCRIPTION

Refer to Heart of Texas Packaging Drawing # 00001

Grocery bags are held in position from several different types of hangers on the front of the enclosure. The outside bag is forced, and held, open by the forced airstream from the air supply. The bag can then be filled with the items. Once the bag is filled, it is removed from the bag hanger. The next bag is automatically blown, and held, open.

Please stamp all copies with the Patent Office seal, date and return the inventor's copies in the self addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you.

Dale Reed

Dale Reed

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT NO.



496447

RETAINED FOR 2 YEARS
THIS IS NOT A PATENT APPLICATION

PTO-1652 (8/99)